

Office of the State Superintendent of Education Announces Eligible Local Education Authorities (LEAs) and Schools in the Community Eligibility Provision School Year 2015-2016

Attached is a list of the Local Education Authorities (LEAs) and their school sites in the District of Columbia that are eligible to participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP). These LEAs and schools have an identified student (direct certification, homeless, or foster care) population of 40% or more according to data reported in the District of Columbia's Direct Certification System report, or by the State Agency Homeless Coordinator and/or the Department of Child and Family Services, as of April 1st of this year. Reported this year are also LEAs or schools that have an identified student population of greater than 30% but less than 40%, making them near eligible.

Under CEP, schools are required to offer both breakfast and lunch meals. Eligible schools under this provision will be able to count and claim meals without having to conduct the normal free and reduced price application process. All students will be able to walk through the serving line and receive a free breakfast and lunch without being charged for meals at those schools electing to participate in CEP.

On May 5, 2012, the District of Columbia was awarded the opportunity to participate in the new alternative to the traditional meal application process associated with the United States Department of Agricultures (USDA) NSLP and SBP. School year 2013-2014 was the District's second year to offer the provision to eligible schools. This current school year, all schools around the country had the opportunity to take part in this provision to make it easier for eligible children in low income communities to receive free meals for breakfast and lunch.

In accordance with Federal law and USDA policy, participating institutions and schools are prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination based on these categories, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave, SW, Washington, DC, 20250-9410; or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (voice). TDD users can contact USDA through local relay or the Federal Relay at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Also, the District of Columbia Human Rights Act prohibits discrimination of the basis of marital status, person appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, family responsibilities, familial status, source of income, place of residence or business, genetic information, matriculation, or political affiliation of any individual. To file a complaint alleging discrimination on one of these bases, please contact the Government of the District of Columbia's Office of Human Rights at (202) 727-3545.

For more information of the Community Eligibility Provision, please contact Wayne Gardiner.